

A SUNKEN LAKE.

One of the Natural Wonders of the Thunder Bay Region. We extract the following from Prof. N. H. Winchell's recent report on the Thunder Bay region:—

Sunken Lake, in Sec. 32, T. 33, N. R. 6 E, is a remarkable example of the effect of subterranean erosion. I have before described the lake in full. Suffice it to say that the North Branch of Thunder Bay River disappears entirely in time of low water beneath a ledge of Hamilton limestone. But in time of high water, the mouth of the subterranean channel will not admit the raised volume of water, and after filling the basin of a little lake, which is nearly a mile in length, it passes overland through the channel represented as its bed on the maps. During half the year, however, this channel is one day south of the lake.

During a recent trip up the Lake Huron shore, north of Thunder Bay, it was one of my objects to examine the reported outlet of this river into Lake Huron. On the south side, and near the head of the deep, crooked bayon, tributary to Little Thunder Bay on the north, is a remarkably deep hole in the otherwise shallow bed of the bay. The entrance of this long arm of Little Thunder Bay is disguised by a long, low island which hangs across it. Any one in coasting would be apt to miss it, as I did at first, unless he followed carefully the same indentures of the coast. Having entered the bayon, I directed my men to follow the right bank, or north side, and to return on the right side. Having entered the bay, we began to coast outward along the south shore. We had left the head of the bayon, perhaps 150 rods, when there was a sudden increase in the depth of the water. The weeds which had covered the bottom entirely disappeared within a space no more than the length of the boat, and the water was as black as at any place in the open lake.

The motion the boat had attained carried us over the chasm, and my pocket thermometer told us the temperature of the water was 67 deg. Fahrenheit. As that was the same as the temperature of the shoal water of the bayon, observed a few minutes before, I was disappointed, for I had expected to detect the presence of river water, if it were the outlet of Sunken Lake, by the difference of temperature between the lake water and that of the water rising from the opening. Pushing the boat astern, we followed the rim of the basin around towards the right, and found the descent very abrupt in all places. The shoal water was filled with weeds, which are common in inland lakes and slow flowing streams, and they were seen to cover the brink and follow down the steep side as far as the eye could distinguish. When the boat reached the east side of the opening, the weeds were seen to rapidly diminish, and they soon entirely disappeared. The brink here was very steep, almost perpendicular, and consisted of sand, with a considerable number of fractured shells.

Our boat stopped upon the brink at this place, and upon proceeding to make another observation on the temperature of the water, what was our surprise to find that we were slowly drifting away from the opening. It was further observed that we were in motion against the breeze which was passing up the bayon. I was again surprised to find that the temperature of the water was 65 degrees Fahrenheit. This observation was made perhaps ten feet to the east of the opening, and as we were drifting, allowing the boat to continue in motion, the temperature at thirty feet from the opening was 65 degrees Fahrenheit. The depth of the water at the place of these last observations was not more than eighteen or twenty inches, and the bottom was one of clean sand with frequent shells common on the lake beach near the mouth of rivers, but no weeds. Returning to the opening and following the line of shoal water in the same direction, we found that the weeds soon became as abundant as on the other side of the current. The current ceased soon after we passed the most easterly or inward side.

The opening is six or eight rods across, and nearly circular, and is nearest the south side of the bayon, about twelve rods from the shore. As one passes over the brink and loses sight of the weeds as they descend so quickly down the subaqueous brink, a feeling of horror comes over the beholder, as if he was about to be precipitated into an awful chasm. Fishermen report that a lead has been lowered 300 feet into its opening without a bottom. I suppose the temperature of the water over the opening is higher than that of the current just east, because of the influx of the heated bayon water, and that the real river water is found just over the sandy part of the brink, and a little further east. It was not until I left the place that I remembered that the temperature of the Thunder Bay river at Alpena, at two different observations, was 55 deg. Fahrenheit. In winter this is always free from ice, and ducks frequent the place. I have no doubt but this is the real outlet of the north branch of Thunder Bay river, which disappears in the bed of Sunken Lake.

A SIOUX SUN DANCE.

How Our Red Brethren Amuse Themselves A correspondent of the St. Louis Republic, writing from Fort Laramie, says of the Sioux sun dance:—This festive performance, as practiced among the Sioux, is regarded by the whites with feelings of horror, and few have the nerve to become spectators of the cruelties which are undergone by the deluded victims. It is a sort of religious dance, in which the young braves test their fortitude and stoicism in resisting pain without wincing. A young officer who witnessed the sun dance a few days since at the agency, seven miles above Fort Snelly, on the Missouri river, gives the following account:—The Indians manifested considerable opposition to having the whites present. When several officers belonging to the 17th United States Infantry came up, Red Leaf leaped over a breastwork of logs and ordered the troops away. After parleying with the chief some time the soldiers fell back and took a position which was not objectionable to the Indians, but whence they would obtain only a partial view of the performances. There was a large lodge built in shape of an amphitheatre, with a pole in the centre. The sides and roof were covered with willows, forming a tolerable screen, but not so as to obstruct entirely the view. The performances were commenced with chants and incantations. Five young men were brought in and partially stripped, their mothers being present and assisting in the ceremony. Then the medicine man began his part by cutting slits in the flesh of the young men and taking up the muscles with pinners. The old squaw assisted in lacerating the flesh of the boys with knives. The squaws would at the same time keep up a howling, accompanied with a movement to or fro. When the muscles were lifted out by the pinners on the breast, one end of a sort of lariat or buffalo thong was tied to the bleeding flesh, while the other end was tied

to the top of the pole in the centre of the lodge. The first young man, when thus prepared, commenced dancing around the circle in a frantic manner, pulling with all his weight, so as to stretch out the rope, and by his jerking movements loosen himself by tearing out the flesh. The young man's dance was accompanied by a chant by those who were standing round, assisted by the thumping of a hideous form to keep time. The young brave who was undergoing this self-torture finally succeeded in tearing himself loose, and the rope relaxed from its sudden tightness and fell back towards the centre pole with a piece of the flesh to which it was tied. The victim, who up to this point did not move a muscle of his face, fell down on the ground, exhausted from the pain which human weakness could no further conceal. A squaw then rushed in and bore the young brave away. He had undergone the terrible ordeal, and amid the congratulations of the old men would be complimented as a warrior of undoubted pluck and acknowledged prowess.

Another of the young men, named Charles, was cut in two places under each shoulder blade, the flesh was raised with pinners, and thongs tied around the flesh and muscles thus raised. The thongs reached down below the knees, and were tied to buffalo skulls. With these heavy weights dangling at the ends of the thongs, the young man was required to dance around the circle, to the sound of the drum and chants of the bystanders, until the skulls became detached by tearing out the flesh. They continued the performance until one of the skulls broke loose, but the other remained. The mother of the young man then rushed into the ring, leading a pony, and tied one end of the lariat which was around the pony's neck to the skull, which was still fastened to the young man. The latter then followed the pony round the ring until, nearly exhausted, he fell on his face, and the skull was thereby torn out of the flesh. The sufferer's voice grew husky from joining in the chant; he grovelled on the ground in violent contortions for a few minutes, and was then removed to the outside of the lodge.

A third man had the lariat of the pony hitched to the raised muscle of his back, and was dragged in this way several times round the ring, but the force not being sufficient to tear loose from the flesh, the pony was backed up, and a slack being thus taken on the lariat, the pony was urged, swiftly forward, and the sudden jerk tore the lariat out of the flesh. My informant having seen enough of these horrid performances to satisfy his curiosity, left with his companions, "without waiting to see the dance through." The dance, with its bloody orgies, lasted three days. The sun dance is not now as frequently practiced as in former days, and the ceremony will become extinct only under the reservation system.

THE SLEEPING BEAUTY.

Report of the Medical Society—Its Conclusions Denied.

The St. Louis Republic of the 17th inst. says:—The report of the committee of the Medical Society of the case of the so-called sleeping beauty, Miss C. Gode, of PLUM, is interesting in its results. The parties who have charge of the girl are highly indignant at the case being pronounced a humbug, and the conclusions of the doctors; they assert that the symptoms, with occasional variations, do occur in the order before described, and that they are willing to put up money on the result of any fair test. The committee's report is not quite satisfactory, as it advances no proof that the continued apparent sleep of the girl is purely feigned. The report from the case itself, the conduct of parties having charge of the patient indicates that their interest is more pecuniary than scientific. They have objected to any medical treatment looking towards the restoration of the girl, and during the fair they circulated handbills announcing a prodigy on exhibition for the small fee of fifty cents. The following extract from one of these bills has a rather suspicious ring about it:—

"Miss Susan C. Gode, known as the sleeping beauty of Ohio county, Tennessee, was born September 13, 1841, and fell asleep August 1, 1849, being a little over eight years old. She has slept perpetually over two-and-one years, never having been awake over eight minutes at one time in that long series of years. She has been visited at her home by the scientific men of Europe and America, who have invariably pronounced her the greatest wonder of this or any other age. She is totally oblivious to the world without, no possible noise or torture making any impression on her. Her breathing is any breathing perceptible, except during the few minutes she is awake to life, when she is perfectly rational." The medical men who have seen her, with one accord, pronounced her the most wonderful pathological prodigy known to the annals of the profession. In their private opinion, which she describes as "going away off to herself," she has grown to a "magnificent womanhood, utterly unconscious of the existence of the world without her. She is long enough to commit one solitary sin, in her beautiful, placid features we come nearer looking upon an incarnate angel than in any other object on earth." The majority of the people will, doubtless, concur in the report of the Medical Society, and those who are of the "rational" faith, will be satisfied with the carrying out of the country for exhibition of a weak, half-stupified girl, as a little property as humanity. The object of bringing the case before the Medical Society was to get a certificate from that body as to the character of the case, and as all hope of that is now at an end, the sleeping beauty will probably ere long disappear from St. Louis.

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Sale No. 246 S. Eighth Street. HANDSOME WALNUT PARLOR AND DINING-ROOM FURNITURE, Mantel and Pier Mirrors, Velvet, English Brussels, and Other Carpets, Etc. On Oct. 21, at 10 o'clock, by catalogue, the handsome walnut furniture, carpets, etc. 10 19 21

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